

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01069 080901Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W
-----080905Z 111463 /20

O 080742Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9314

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1069

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, MA, US

SUBJECT: CHARGE'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: ANTANANARIVO 1068

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN JUNE 8 MADAGASCAR
MATIN UNDER THE TITLE "TOWARD A NORMALIZATION OF USA-RDM
RELATIONS?..." AS I DID NOT SPEAK TO THE PRESS BEFORE OR
AFTER MY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THE SOURCE OF THIS
STORY MUST BE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. JUSTIN RAKOTONIAINA, PRIME MINISTER
AND CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE YESTERDAY
AT THE END OF THE MORNING MR. ROBERT S. BARRETT, CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA. THE
INTERVIEW, WHICH LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR, PERMITTED THE TWO
MEN TO MAKE A TOUR OF THE HORIZON OF US/MALAGASY RELATIONS.

THUS MR. JUSTIN RAKOTONIAINA RECALLED THE CONTINUOUS.,
FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED WITH MR. BARRETT'S
PREDECESSOR. HE ALSO UNDERLINED THAT HE WAS DETERMINED,
AND HIS GOVERNMENT ALONG WITH HIM, TO STUDY WITH THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WHAT COULD BE DONE ON ONE
SIDE OR THE OTHER FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
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BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT THE ARRIVAL OF
THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO POWER COULD BE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE IN THIS RESPECT.

FOR HIS PART CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. MR. BARRETT
MADE IT KNOWN THAT BEFORE BEING NAMED TO HIS PRESENT POST
HE HAD HANDLED EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND THAT HE HAD

FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE EVOLUTION OF US/MADAGASCAR RELATIONS SINCE 1975. A TOUR OF THE HORIZON OF AMERICAN POLICY WITH REGARD TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN WAS ALSO MADE BY MR. BARRETT.

RELATIONS BETWEEN MADAGASCAR AND THE US HAD DETERIORATED SINCE JULY 1975 AFTER THE DEFINITIVE CLOSURE BY THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAN STATION FOR THE OBSERVATION OF ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES (NASA), AND FOLLOWING EXPULSION MEASURES TAKEN IN 1976 AGAINST DIPLOMATS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON POST IN ANTANANARIVO AND WASHINGTON. END TEXT.

3. OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN, MADAGASCAR PRESSE, RECEIVED AFTER MADAGASCAR MATIN, CONTAINS BASICALLY SAME ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS. THE PM IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, AND WE ARE READY TO SEE WITH YOU WHAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN ON ONE SIDE AND THE OTHER IN THIS RESPECT." THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATES, "MR. BARRETT SHARES THIS OPINION AND WILL WORK FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES."BARRETT

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